



Urban District Council of
Sowerby.

ANNUAL
REPORTS
— OF —
Medical Officer of Health
— AND —
Inspector of Nuisances
FOR
1921.

SOWERBY BRIDGE :
J. W. EDWARDS, PRINTER, &c., TOWN HALL STREET.

1922.



Urban District Council

— OF —

SOWERBY.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

December 31st, 1921.

Councillor R. BRADLEY (Chairman).
„ A. MEADOWCROFT, J.P.
„ S. HANSON.
„ J. WADSWORTH.
„ T. HEAP.
„ C. CLEMENTS.
„ F. WOLFENDEN.
„ F. BATESON.
„ H. E. HOLROYD.
„ N. HANSON.
„ G. H. HOYLE.
„ S. HANSON.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :
JOHN A. ADAMS, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.

Sanitary Inspector :
J. SMITH, A.R.S.I.

URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY, 1921.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of water)	...	2462
Rateable Value	... ..	£10247
Altitude, varies from 270ft. to 1250ft. above sea level.		
Latitude, 53 deg. 42 N.	Longitude, 1 deg. 56 W.	
Population (Census of 1921)	... ..	3208
Birth Rate (1920)...	... ..	16.9
„ (1921)...	... ..	22.4
Death Rate(1920)...	... ..	17.8
„ (1921)...	... ..	13.0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (1920)	...	3
„ „ (1921)	...	8
Rainfall taken at the Haugh End by J. Selwyn		
Rawson, Esq., J.P....	... ..	36.48 inches.
Against an average for 53 years of	...	43.29 inches.

SOWERBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending December, 1921.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Report for the year 1921.

Geological Formation.—The District is situate on the dip-slope of a mill-stone grit formation, the rocks consisting of alternating beds of sandstones and shales, which dip, roughly, from N.W. to S.E. The lie of the strata is of great importance as regards contamination of wells from impurities higher up. The contour of the District is mountainous, and the surface, with the exception of some little agriculture, done chiefly for the purpose of improving the sward, is laid out in grass.

A considerable quantity of milk is produced, which is principally sold as new milk, the surplus being made into butter.

During the War some cereal crops, principally oats, have been grown with not very satisfactory results, as the altitude of the land and the absence of clear sunlight, owing to the smoky atmosphere, prevented ripening of the grain.

Occupation.—The inhabitants are chiefly employed in the foundries and factories in the valleys, many of them combining factory work with agricultural pursuits. As a result, the physique of the people will compare most favourably with that of the town dwellers in neighbouring districts.

In past times there has been a considerable amount of consanguineous marriage, which has not exerted a beneficial influence.

The population during the year under review is taken at 3208.

The District is gradually becoming peopled by comparatively aged folks, which will help to explain the low birth rate and the advanced age of a large proportion of the deaths.

Births.—Males 34, females 38; total 72. Birth rate 22.4 per thousand against 16.9 in 1920. Birth Rate for England and Wales during 1921 was 22.4.

Two illegitimate births registered in 1921 and one in 1920.

Infantile Mortality.—Eight deaths occurred during the year in children under one year, giving a mortality 111. per thousand births.

Four of these deaths were due to congenital conditions and only one to gastro enteritis.

The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales during 1921 was 83.

Deaths.—Males 21, females 22; total 43. Death rate 13.0 per thousand against 17.8 in 1920. Death rate for England and Wales during 1921 was 12.1.

Ages at Death.

8 deaths occurred under 1 year.				
2	„	„	between 1 and 5 years.	
2	„	„	„	5 „ 15 „
3	„	„	„	15 „ 25 „
14	„	„	„	25 „ 65 „
11	„	„	„	65 „ 75 „
3	„	„	over 75 years.	

Three Inquests were held during the year.

Not certified—One death.

Violence—Nil.

Suicide—Nil.

Eight deaths occurred in Institution outside District.

Zymotic Diseases.—During 1921 ten cases have been reported as against seven cases in 1920.

No death from this cause.

Diphtheria.—Nil.

Scarlatina.—Ten cases during the year. Curiously, four isolated cases of this disease occurred in the households of men who were working at a mill in the neighbourhood where they came in contact with woollen cloth from another district where Scarlatina was rife.

I failed to trace the source of infection, though inquiries were made in the infected district.

Erysipelas.—Nil.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—A sharp epidemic of these two diseases occurred in June at Mill Bank necessitating the closure of St. Mary's School for three weeks. This had the desired effect of checking the spread of these diseases.

Epidemic Diarrhoea.—A few cases of ordinary type were present during the late summer.

Tuberculosis.—Five deaths occurred during the year and eight cases were notified:—Six pulmonary and two other forms.

Cases of Tuberculosis attend the Tuberculosis Dispensary in Sowerby Bridge.

Anthrax.—A case of anthrax in a cow was reported from a farm in the District in February. The carcase was burnt and the premises were carefully disinfected.

Within a week a man who had assisted in getting the carcase out of the mistal, before anthrax was discovered, showed signs of the disease—an anthrax pustule on the arm, injections of Selavo's serum were employed and the man recovered.

Respiratory Diseases.

Eight deaths occurred from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Three deaths from Cancer occurred during 1921.

Hospital Accommodation.—No Isolation Hospital in the District, but arrangements have been made with the Halifax Corporation for the reception of cases in the Halifax Borough Isolation Hospital.

Venereal Diseases.—The District is served by the Venereal Clinic at the Royal Halifax Infirmary, where cases receive attention free of charge.

Schools.—Three Schools in the District. During the year attention was drawn to the insanitary condition of the closet accommodation at St. Peter's School, Sowerby.

St. Mary's School was closed for three weeks owing to epidemics of whooping cough and measles.

Housing.—900 houses exist in the District, of which number 800 are of the working-class type.

In the census of 1911 there were 125 uninhabited houses in the District, now there are practically no uninhabited houses.

Dwellings are built of stone and are, as a rule, scrupulously clean, but many of them do not come up to the standard of requirements under the Housing Scheme of the Ministry of Health. Owing to a general scarcity of houses these cannot be condemned as unfit.

There are several examples of over-crowding, even though the average occupancy is only 3.5 persons per house.

There is an estimated need of 60 houses, and a scheme is under consideration for the erection of a number of houses.

No new house of artisan type has been erected during the year.

Water Supply.—Sowerby Town is supplied from a reservoir at Sowerby Green, and the outlying parts are dependent on springs, which are numerous and yield well.

During the summer of 1921 there was a prolonged curtailment in the supply from the reservoir at Sowerby Green owing to the low rainfall.

GENERAL REPORT.

Sewage.—Conveyed by a sewage system to disposal works at Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot where it is dealt with.

Cowsheds.—Conditions, fairly good. The cowsheds are generally kept clean and well lime-washed, but in some cases more attention will have to be paid to the general ventilation and lighting.

Milk is of good quality and is mostly sold outside the District.

No complaint has been made from any District in which the Milk is sold.

In view of the need for more up-to-date treatment of milk in the local dairies, a course of Lectures on milk supply was promoted; the Lecturer was provided by the County Council.

Factories.—Three factories, one dyehouse, and one chemical works giving employment in the area.

The chemical works at Mill Bank has caused serious inconvenience to the inhabitants owing to fumes from a furnace where bones were calcined. This, in my opinion, was due to charging the furnace beyond its capacity. A notice of nuisance was served on the owners, also attention was drawn to the objectionable practice of leaving foul smelling bones exposed on a dray at the roadside near the works.

Bakehouses.—Four (with one exception) clean and well lighted. No underground bakeries.

Conclusion.—With the exception of the epidemic of Scarlatina mentioned previously, there has been no special incidence of disease, and, as was to be expected, the deaths were chiefly of people of advanced years.

Like most other similar Districts in manufacturing areas, we feel the need for more housing accommodation and, in view of this, the question of an amply supply of water for domestic purposes has become acute.

During the year the question of water supply has engaged attention and two schemes have been considered:—Obtaining water from neighbouring areas, one of which has a water main passing through this District, or constructing a storage reservoir in our own area. So far neither scheme has materialized, and our Housing Scheme is being hung up by the want of a proper supply of water for domestic purposes. At the same time any further conversion of privies into water closets is blocked, and this applies especially to one of our Day Schools.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN A. ADAMS, *M.O.H.*

For detailed statement of work carried out by Sanitary Department see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1921.

TOWN HOUSE,
SOWERBY.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my report of the Sanitary condition of the District for your consideration.

Your District has been continually inspected for the detection and suppression of Nuisances during the year. The number dealt with was 50, number abated 48, number unabated on the 31st December, 2.

The Scavenging of the District was undertaken by my Dept. commencing on the 1st of May, 1921, the disposal of the refuse is by Tips, of which there are two, one at Daisy Lea, Sowerby, and one at Rawson Farm, Mill Bank, you are the owners of Daisy Lea Tip Land, and we are required to pay for Tipping at Mill Bank £7 10s. per annum. The total amount of refuse removed from May 3rd to December 31st is 724 Loads, or an average of 90.5 Loads per month, the cost worked out at £316 or 8/9 per Load; the work is done by direct labour, one man, and one Horse and Driver being regularly employed.

The Privy Ashpit type of convenience has been adopted in preference to the Pail system, and I am pleased to state that a large number of reconstructions and many alterations have been carried out. Where possible I strongly advocate the "Water Carriage" system; your sewerage works are available in the Triangle and Sowerby areas, but a more satisfactory supply of water is necessary, before this system can be generally adopted.

Total No. of W.C.'s	...	...	141
Pail Closets	...	...	125
Privies and Ashpits	...	...	405

Sewers and Drains.—The cesspool at Belmont has been re-placed by a new system of sewers and drains. The outstanding works of sewerage requiring improvement are:—continuation of sewer to link up Providence Place to sewer at our boundary, and a scheme for the effectual drainage of Ivy House, &c.

The Drains and Sanitary Conveniences at St. Peter's National School, Sowerby, are not conducive to the good health of the children attending this School, and my recommendations, as stated in a report to the School Managers dated the 27th July, 1919, are very desirous and necessary, both in the opinion of your M.O.H. and myself.

Housing.

I have inspected 50 houses for minor defects, but owing to pressure of work no records have been entered under the Housing Act (Inspection of District). May I be permitted to draw your attention to the fact that a number of the dwelling houses are, in my opinion, below a reasonable standard of comfort and convenience, many are small, and a number show a marked dampness.

I respectfully suggest that a progressive policy of House Construction to re-place many of the almost uninhabitable dwellings is worthy of your consideration.

Five cases of Over-Crowding were investigated, but it was impossible to take action owing to present shortage of suitable houses.

Disinfection of 20 houses for Diseases and Vermin. The three Schools are disinfected three times yearly. Disinfectants are supplied to Householders free.

Slaughter Houses.—1 Slaughter House only is in use, weekly visits are made, it is kept clean, has a fairly good water supply and good drainage; there are four meat salesmen in the district, and three of them use the Public Abitors at Sowerby Bridge.

Bakehouses.—There are four Bakehouses upon the register, none are underground, frequent inspections are made by myself and your M.O.H., three are in a very clean and satisfactory condition, but the one at Lower Bentley Royd is not kept in a satisfactory state, the Baker is careless in allowing dirt to collect, though after warnings he is now improving, the building is a very old one and does not lend itself to food production, and I have warned him to try and find a more suitable place for a Bakehouse.

Offensive Trades.—The bone burning at Lumb Mill is closed down for the present.

There are three Fried Fish Shops in your area, all are inspected at short intervals; they are always found to be in a clean condition.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—There are 93 Cowsheds in your area and 83 Cowkeepers. The No. of Cows is about 550. During the past four years very few reforms have been made in the Cowsheds. Your M.O.H. and myself have Inspected the Cowsheds and with two exceptions found them fairly clean.

A better standard of Cowsheds will however become imperative. Lighting and Ventilation might in several cases be improved. A milk of Class A quality cannot be produced in badly lighted and ventilated stalls, and it is essential that so important an article of food as milk, should be produced under good hygienic conditions.

Water Supplies.—The summer of 1921 was an exceedingly dry one, and our supplies were taxed to the limit, I feel compelled to repeat again, that no development of your District is possible until a greater quantity of water is available, and good sanitation cannot be attained without an ample water supply, may I venture to hope that during 1922 a settlement of this question may be decided upon.

Petroleum Acts.—There are two licensed Petrol Stores in the District, both are underground Tanks (Ventilated) with centrifugal pumps for drawing off the Petrol, several inspections were made and found to be in accordance with the Acts. One license also granted at Mill Bank Chemical Works for storage of Benzine in connection with their Glue Plant.

I am pleased to state that despite the difficulties arising as a result of the war, a little progress has been made in abolishing insanitary conditions, though there is still need for many alterations and reforms.

The duties under the Public Health Department continue to grow, additional clerical duties are therefore essential.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee and the M.O.H., for the assistance rendered to me in the discharge of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. SMITH, *Sanitary Inspector.*

Spalding Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Spalding Urban District

FOR THE

YEAR 1921.

Report of Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1921.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you my Report as Medical Officer of Health of Urban District of Spalding.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	10,284
Population 1921	...	...	...	...	10,700
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	2,785
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£44,333	
Sum represented by Penny Rate	...	...	...	£171 19s. 5d.	

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS—	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	246	117	129
Illegitimate	12	4	8
Birth-rate per 1,000 total population			24·1

DEATHS—	Total	M.	F.
	128	69	59
Death-rate per 1,000 total population			11·9

There were no deaths in or in consequence of Child-birth.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Births.

Legitimate 73. Illegitimate 3. Total 76.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	3

3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE—			Total Notified.	Total Deaths.
1.	Diphtheria	... ..	6	... .. 0
2.	Scarlet Fever	...	7	... .. 0
3.	Enteric Fever	...	1	... .. 1
4.	Pneumonia	...	5	... .. 3
5.	Erysipelas	...	1	... .. 0
6.	Encephalitis Lethargica		1	... .. 0
7.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		7 { ^M _F 5 2	... .. 8
	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis		4 { ^M _F 2 2	... .. 1

One Case of Scarlet Fever was treated in Isolation Hospital.

There were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

4. CAUSE OF SICKNESS.

There have been no Special Causes of Sickness or Invalidity during the past year. The general health of the District has been good.

5. SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS, Etc.

Spalding Nursing Association employ one General Nurse and one Midwife. The Association derives its funds partly from subscriptions, and partly from fees paid by patients.

There are no Midwives practising independently in the district.

Child Welfare Work is carried on by Voluntary Workers at the Church Cote, and a large number of Mothers take advantage of this valuable work.

In Isolation Hospital, 8 beds are provided by the Council for treatment of Infectious Cases.

The Johnson Hospital is situated in the District, and is available for treatment of Medical and Surgical Patients.

Poor Law Infirmary, 67 Beds, is within the District.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES—

(a) For Infectious Cases. Horse Ambulance—the property of Board of Guardians is used for conveyance of Infectious Cases.

(b) For Non-infectious and Accident Cases. A Motor Ambulance is available for these cases.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

The Council are Subscribers to the Clinical Research Association, and in suitable cases have bacteriological examinations made and issue diphtheria antitoxin when necessary.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, etc., in force :—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Part iii.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Sec. 80. Common Lodging Houses.

„ 157. New Streets and Buildings.

„ 167. Markets and Fairs.

„ 169. Slaughter Houses.

Public Health (Interments) Act.

1879, Sec. 2. Cemeteries.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.

7. SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

No Closets have been converted to the water carriage system during the year.

There are 659 Pan Closets in use.

Bakehouses and places where food is prepared have been inspected.

There are 12 Registered Slaughter-houses in the area.

Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Public Health Officers of Council are—

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (part time).

9. HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	11
(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme	...	...	...	...	...	11

1. *Unfit dwelling-houses.*

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	96
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	...	none
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	none
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	...	none

2. *Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	42
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | none |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit:— | |
| (a) by owners | none |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | none |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close | none |

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | none |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:— | |
| (a) by owners | none |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | none |

C—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act 1909.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... | none |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... | none |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | none |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... | none |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... | none |

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. MUNRO, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Causes of Death during Year 1921.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
ALL CAUSES	69	59
Enteric Fever	1	
Small Pox		
Measles		
Scarlet Fever		
Whooping Cough		
Diphtheria		2
Influenza		
Encephalitis Lethargica		
Meningococcal Meningitis ...		
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease... ..	5	6
Rheumatic Fever		1
Diabetes		8
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c....	3	9
Heart Disease	16	3
Arterio-sclerosis	5	3
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	
Other Respiratory Diseases		
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.....		1
Diarrhœa, &c. (Under 2 years	2	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	
Cirrhosis of Liver		1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	
Puerperal Sepsis.....		
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition		
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	8	4
Suicide	1	1
Other Deaths from violence	10	11
Other Defined Diseases		
Causes ill-defined or unknown		
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age. TOTAL	12	7
Illegitimate	1	
TOTAL BIRTHS	121	137
Legitimate	117	129
Illegitimate	4	8
POPULATION.....	10,700	